

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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SUMMARY FRAMES IN VIDEO

10 According to the invention, channel surfers are aided
by summary frames appearing on the screen along with the
regular program. These summary frames are embedded in the
broadcast and appear in a small window on the screen at some
point in the future as the video is broadcast. The summary
frames depict key scenes from the past which aid the viewer
in quickly ascertaining the current plot or theme of the
video program. In an interactive television environment, a
15 short video segment may be associated with each shot such
that when the shot is selected, the past video segment is
played in a larger window on the screen complete with sound.
Once the segment is viewed, the video program is rejoined in
progress with the viewer having a better sense of what is
20 going on in the video. Hence, when a channel surfer
arrives at a new channel, rather than only having what is
currently playing to catch the eye, summary frames are also
available to catch the surfer's attention and aid in
understanding the programming.